

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 27-28 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend Claims 29-33 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

1-28 (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 27, wherein said~~ An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of a protein comprising amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1873 and a protein ~~nucleic acid molecules encoding a variant thereof~~ that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1873, wherein said ~~variant~~ protein has chloride channel activity.

30. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim ~~27~~29, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein comprising amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1873.

31. (Currently Amended) A recombinant molecule comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim ~~27~~29 operatively linked to a transcription control sequence.

32. (Currently Amended) A recombinant virus comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim ~~27~~29.

33. (Currently Amended) A recombinant cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim ~~27~~29.

34. (Withdrawn) A method to produce a protein encoded by an isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of a *C. felis* cDNA molecule and a *C. felis* RNA molecule that hybridizes to a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1874 and SEQ ID NO:1876, under conditions comprising (a) hybridizing in a solution comprising 1X SSC in the absence of helix destabilizing compounds, at a temperature of about 37°C and (b) washing in a solution comprising 1X SSC in the absence of helix destabilizing

compounds, at a temperature of about 47.5°C, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein having chloride channel activity, said method comprising the steps of (1) culturing a cell transformed with said isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein operatively linked to a transcription control sequence and (2) recovering said encoded protein.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein having amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1873.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of: a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1872 and SEQ ID NO:1875; and fragments thereof, wherein said fragment comprises at least 25 contiguous nucleotides from a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1872 and SEQ ID NO:1875.

37. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising an excipient and an isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of a protein comprising amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1873 and a protein that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1873, wherein said protein has chloride channel activity ~~an isolated *C. felis* cDNA molecule or a *C. felis* RNA molecule nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of (a) a *C. felis* cDNA molecule or a *C. felis* RNA molecule that hybridizes to a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1874 and SEQ ID NO:1876 under conditions comprising (1) hybridizing in a solution comprising 1X SSC in the absence of helix destabilizing compounds, at a temperature of about 37°C and (2) washing in a solution comprising 1X SSC and in the absence of helix destabilizing compounds, at a temperature of about 47.5°C, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein having chloride channel activity; and (b) a~~

~~*C. felis* cDNA molecule or a *C. felis* RNA molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence fully complementary to a nucleic acid molecule of (a).~~

38. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 37, wherein said composition further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of an adjuvant and a carrier.

39-47. (Canceled)

48. (New) An isolated *C. felis* cDNA molecule or a *C. felis* RNA molecule nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1872, SEQ ID NO:1874, SEQ ID NO:1875 and SEQ ID NO:1876.

49. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein comprising amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1873.

50. (New) A recombinant molecule comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 48 operatively linked to a transcription control sequence.

51. (New) A recombinant virus comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 48.

52. (New) A recombinant cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 48.

53. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule fully complementary to a nucleic acid molecule of Claim 29.